

DDS&T-208/84

14 MAR 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Office of Legislative Liaison

FROM:

R. E. Hineman
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT:

Testimony Regarding Unauthorized Disclosure Given
Before a House Subcommittee

25X1

1. I have read with alarm your memorandum [redacted] asking us to review the unclassified summaries of examples of leaks used in Congressional testimony on 7 February. I believe that the public release of such information would be a dumb thing to do.

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2. If we were to go ahead and provide such examples to the Congress to be used in unclassified testimony, the press would inevitably make inquiries to Congressional staffers asking what each one of these examples is all about. Even if the staffers believe they are being discreet in answering such inquiries, the utterance of just one word [redacted] could enable a clever reporter to piece together the entire picture of a classified and sensitive operation. This, in effect, would amount to "leakage by successive approximation." Furthermore, the public release of such information could be cited by future leakers as justification for even more leaks of classified information on these subjects. I do not see how it would be in the best interest of the U.S. Government to permit this to happen.

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3. I believe Congress is just as concerned about leaks as we are and would accept my reasoning on this issue. We have provided the Hill with background information on past leaks. I believe what we have already done is sufficient and comprehensive enough.

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[redacted]
R. E. Hineman

S E C R E T